

agencies, organizations, tribes, and members of the public for their review and comment. It is very important that those interested in the proposed action participate at that time.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, (9th Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in November 1998. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decisions on this proposal.

Responsible Official

Jerry B. Reese, Forest Supervisor, is the responsible official. As responsible official, he will document the selected alternative for the East Beaver Creek Timber Sale and Prescribed Burning

Project EIS and his rationale in a Record of Decision.

The decision for the East Beaver Creek Timber Sale and Prescribed Burning Project will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: April 9, 1998.

Jerry B. Reese,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-10270 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on its intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection, "Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposal." These guidelines provide instructions for submitting grant proposals requesting funds from GIPSA for research to develop procedures and equipment that may be used to measure grain quality.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 19, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Tanner, Director, Technical Services Division, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS Technical Service Center, 10383 N Executive Hills Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64153-1394; telephone (816-891-0401).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under Section 4a of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA; 7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.), GIPSA is responsible for establishing grain standards which accurately describe the quality of grain being traded and for applying these standards uniformly in a nationwide inspection system. Section 16e of the USGSA authorizes the agency to conduct a continuing research program for the purpose of developing methods to improve accuracy and uniformity in grading grain. To carry out this authority, GIPSA maintains an external research program under which research

scientists are invited to submit research grant proposals that include the objectives of the proposed work; application of the proposed work to the grain inspection system; the procedures, equipment, personnel, etc., that will be used to reach the project objectives; the cost of the project; a schedule for completion; qualifications of the investigator and the grantee organization; and a listing of all other sources of financial support for the project. GIPSA utilizes the Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposals to assist grant applicants with preparation of grant proposals.

Title: Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposal.

OMB Number: 0580-0014.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is interested in supporting research to develop procedures and equipment that may be used to measure grain quality. The Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposal provides instructions for submitting grant proposals requesting funds from GIPSA for this purpose.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 hours per response.

Respondents: Organizations who employ scientists and engineers who do research and development on procedures and equipment which may be used to provide measurement of grain quality.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 60.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cathy McDuffie, the Agency Support Services Specialist, at (301) 734-5190.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information

on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Sharon Vassiliades, ARTS, GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3649, Washington, D.C. 20250-3649; fax 202 720-4628; e-mail svassili@fgisdc.usda.gov.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 13, 1998.
James R. Baker,
Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.
 [FR Doc. 98-10189 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Deposting of Stockyards

Notice is hereby given, that the livestock markets named herein,

originally posted on the dates specified below as being subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended (7 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*), no longer comes within the definition of a stockyard under the Act and are therefore, no longer subject to the provisions of the Act.

Facility No., name, and location of stockyard	Date of posting
IA-153 North Iowa Livestock Exchange, Ltd., Garner, Iowa	January 8, 1957.
IA-175 LeMars Auction Barn, LeMars, Iowa	May 29, 1959.
IA-212 Northside Sales Company, Sibley, Iowa	May 19, 1959.
NB-104 Arnold Sale Barn, Arnold, Nebraska	January 10, 1957.
NB-173 Livestock Exchange of Sargent, Sargent, Nebraska	November 14, 1958.
NB-182 The Nebraska Sandhills Cattle Auction, Inc., Thedford, Nebraska	February 8, 1950.
NB-191 Wisner Sales Co., Inc., Wisner, Nebraska	June 29, 1983.

This notice is in the nature of a change relieving a restriction and, thus, may be made effective in less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register** without prior notice or other public procedure. This notice is given pursuant to section 302 of the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. 202) and is effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Done at Washington, D.C., this 9th day of April 1998.

Daniel L. Van Ackeren,

Director, Livestock Marketing Division, Packers and Stockyards Programs.

[FR Doc. 98-10190 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3210-KD-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service's (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 19, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Arnold, Financial Analyst, Office of the Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1560, Room 4024 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-1560. Telephone: (202) 690-1078. FAX: (202) 690-0717. E-mail: sarnold@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Electric Loan Application and Related Reporting Burdens.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0032.

Type of Request: Extension of a previously approved information collection, with change.

Abstract: The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*), as amended (RE Act) authorizes and empowers the Administrator of RUS to make and guarantee loans to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas. These loans are amortized over a period of up to 35 years and secured by the borrower's electric assets. In the interest of protecting loan security, monitoring compliance with debt covenants, and ensuring that RUS loan funds are used for purposes authorized by law, RUS requires that borrowers prepare and submit for RUS evaluation, certain studies and reports. Some of these studies and reports are required only once for each loan application; others must be submitted periodically until the loan is completely repaid.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 6 hours per response.

Respondents: Small business or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 754.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 4.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 16,834.

Copies of this information collection, and related form and instructions, can be obtained from Dawn Wolfgang, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 720-0812.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.